

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

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College gets \$1 million gift

By Greg Bisch

"I am very excited. This is a big, big deal for the college," said Conestoga president, John Tibbits, after receiving a donation of \$1,000,000 from the president of Automation Tooling Systems Inc. (ATS), in the former Dettweiler Electrical Centre, Feb. 26.

Klaus Woerner, the president of the Cambridge based company, presented Tibbits with a cheque for \$200,000, as a first instalment of the donation which will be paid in full over the next five years.

This donation, the largest in Conestoga's history, will go to expanding and improving technology education at the college.

"What this investment will do, is it will expand our program in engineering and technology and, in particular, robots and automated manufacturing," Tibbits said to various Conestoga and ATS representatives at the presentation.

However, Woerner was the first to admit that it is not only the college that will benefit.

"Many people who have graduated from Conestoga College, from many different disciplines, have joined the workforce at ATS," said Woerner. "When we educate the students here, we (at ATS) will benefit from it. The more specialized the students are coming out of the college, the more readily they will integrate into the workforce."

A news release, received before the official announcement, said that ATS had revenues of nearly \$250 million, in 1996.

The release also said ATS

"designs, builds and integrates robotic and dedicated, high-speed factory automation systems for industries such as aerospace, appliance, automotive, computer, electronics, food packaging/processing, medical pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and general manufacturing."

Woerner said that the areas of robots and automated technology are essential in his company and he wants students to be able to work on the kind of up-to-date hardware and software used by ATS.

It is not efficient, he said, for graduates to be trained with technology which has long been surpassed in the workforce.

ATS will also aid by donating technology and the experience of their workers to help train students for the job market.

He pointed out that the donation will not only be a benefit of ATS, but also other companies that hire Conestoga graduates.

"We are the beneficiaries of post-secondary education," said Woerner. "It is the responsibility of employers to support the funding for their future." He said he hopes other businesses would follow his lead and help students prepare for work.

"With all the cuts to education that the government has made, businesses will have to help fund education in order to keep it level."

"The government can only chop, chop, chop for so long before it has a negative effect on what students are getting."

Tibbits agreed. "Yes, we need more beneficiaries and businesses supporting the college in order to



Klaus Woerner holds a document presented to him by John Tibbits.
(Photo by Greg Bisch)

maintain a high level of excellence," he said.

After the five-year donation period has expired, Woerner said, depending on how ATS is doing financially, a relationship with Conestoga may continue.

"The relationship between ATS and Conestoga College has been growing as ATS has been growing," said Tibbits. "It is a highly recognized company and a very successful one in our area."

Woerner gave credit to Conestoga saying number of technical graduates have aided in the achievements of ATS.

In recognition for the contribution to the college, Tibbits presented Woerner with a plaque recognizing his company. The plaque will be mounted inside the front entrance of the former Dettweiler Electrical Centre which has been renamed the ATS

Engineering Complex.

As well, Woerner was presented with a framed picture of the Conestoga College coat of arms.

This was just one of a few donations Woerner has made in this area over the past year, he said. In the fall of last year he made an agreement with the University of Waterloo to give them \$250,000 over the next five years. As well, he donated \$5,000,000 to Kitchener's Centre In The Square Jan. 22. "All of these donations have been in the works for some time," said Woerner. "The timing of them is purely coincidental."

He added that there have been various organizations and interest groups asking for him for money.

However, he said, those groups will have little chance of getting a gift after so much money was spent on the Centre in the Square.



Conestoga president John Tibbits shows ATS's Klaus Woerner a plaque bearing the building's new name.

(Photo by Rachel Pearce)

Michelin becomes latest partner for Conestoga

Giant tire-maker unveils new training centre at Doon campus, keeps college on roll

By Michael Hilborn

On Mar. 3, a new era dawned at Conestoga when an unprecedented partnership was sealed between the college and giant tire-maker Michelin during a luncheon ceremony at the Michelin/Conestoga College Maintenance and Automation Technology Training Centre.

The new 8,900-square-foot wing, located in the Automatic Tooling Systems Engineering Complex, houses training labs, the latest in high-technology equipment as well as classrooms.

This partnership came about as a result of the acquisition by Michelin of Uniroyal Goodrich in 1990.

With so many employees and expansion plans on the horizon, it became necessary to have a centrally located training centre that could familiarize employees with the newest trends and equipment.

"The most successful organizations learn fast and learn well," said Joseph McMullen, manager of technical training for Michelin North America Inc. McMullen said Michelin employs 25,000 people and 16,000 are in training somewhere every day.

Under the terms of this arrangement, Michelin is providing \$75,000 in equipment while Conestoga is marketing the training. The idea is for Conestoga graduates to be qualified to be employed by Michelin.

Ralph Winter and Dale Kelva are two Michelin employees currently in training at the college. Both said they think this is a good idea. "These are good training courses," said Winter. Both men are in the third week of the eight-week

course and will be returning to their regular duties upon completion of the course.

Conestoga president John Tibbits said he sees this as the start of a trend that could be extended to other aspects of the college. "I want every program here to be co-op within five to seven years," he said. "The intention is to sell training to the private sector. Both the college and Michelin were trying to offer the same kind of training. Now we are working together." Tibbits said the program came about as the result of an \$800,000 investment consisting of a Canada/Ontario infrastructure grant and a substantial contribution from the \$1 million donation made to the college by ATS of Cambridge.

The ceremony was preceded by a full-course buffet luncheon and was attended by representatives from various local industries.

After the introductory speeches by the representatives from the college and Michelin, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the event. After the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the facility and speak with the students and trainees.



Gord Huntington (left) helps John Tibbits (centre) and Joseph McMullen cut the ribbon at the official opening of the Michelin/Conestoga College Maintenance and Automation Technology Training Centre.

(Photo by Michael Hilborn)

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Re: Feb. 23 article: "Photocopier busted again"

In the article dealing with the unfortunate damage done to one of the photocopiers at Doon campus, the reporter did not intend to imply that a night school student from Continuing Education was responsible for the act of vandalism. There is no evidence at all to suggest that this may be the case.

Spoke regrets any distress this may have caused those involved with the program. The vandals remain at large.

Ever considered politics?

Board of governors seeking nominations

By Rita Fatila

A Conestoga student can have a say in the big issues by being elected to the board of governors April 1.

The board of governors is the official policy-making body of the college, said Kevin Mullan, the board's secretary-treasurer.

"It's the legal entity of the college," he said.

The board is made up of four people, each person representing a constituency group. This spring, two people are needed to represent support staff and students, according to flyers posted by the board.

The nominations are open to any full-time or part-time students enrolled in a program leading to a diploma or certificate. Nomination forms, which can be found posted on campus bulletin boards, must be returned to the secretary-treasurer of the board by March 12.

The term of office to be served is from September 1, 1998 to August 31, 1999 and the elected student is expected to continue their term even if they graduate before it is up.

A seat on the board of governors requires a student to be familiar with college bylaws and rules regarding conflicts of interest. The student must attend all scheduled board meetings as

well as other board-related events.

"There are a number of subcommittees," explained Mullan. "The primary one for students would be the academic and student affairs committee. A student would have to attend their meetings, and they meet once a month."

There's not much money to be made; the board only covers out-of-pocket and travel expenses incurred in carrying out board business. A student also has to be able to keep a secret, unless the board has allowed the information to be given at an open session.

The main role of the student who sits on the board of governors is to "provide continual, responsible representation," as well as "bring a constituent perspective to their deliberations."

Students are warned in the flyer, however, that "their primary responsibility is to advance the best interests of the college and its students over and above any special interests of particular groups."

Nominees will be listed March 23. As of Feb. 26, no nominations had been received, Mullan said.

If only one nomination is received, that student will be acclaimed and no election will be held.

Free Nooner

Featuring recording artist

Dayna Manning

Thurs. March 19

11:30 am

The Sanctuary



Students organize health fair

Problems of self-esteem, drug and alcohol use raised

By Dan Meagher

Conestoga College's sixth-semester nursing students orchestrated a health fair at Sunnyside senior public school in Kitchener on Mar. 6 that opened more than a few eyes to the realities facing youth today.

Dealing with topics ranging from drug and alcohol use to self-esteem and communication, the fair was set up for more than 300 Grade 8 students at the school.

While the fair, which featured six stations of nursing students working in teams of four, was a final step in their training, it was also used to reach out into the community.

"It's more than just a part of our training," said John Leonard, one of three student coordinators of the fair. "It enables us to help deal with some of the health issues facing these kids."

"It's more than just a part of our training. It enables us to help deal with some of the health issues facing these kids"

*John Leonard,
student coordinator*

Leonard, who along with fellow students Tonya Tulk and Liane Hughes spent the last months planning the fair, said the nursing students were also learning from the children.

"It really gives us some perspective on the situation these young people are in," he said. "There was concern that they might be too young to hear some of this stuff, but in reality some of them are dealing with it every day."



Sixth-semester nursing students (from left) John Leonard, Liane Hughes and Tonya Tulk coordinated the Grade 8 health fair (Photo by Dan Meagher)

Tulk was pleased with the attentiveness of the young students. "We're surprised at how well they are reacting to the displays. We know they're at an age where attitudes could be a problem, but we haven't seen any of that."

Given that the nursing students had to present their material to six groups of students in each of five sessions during the day, Hughes was concerned about the attention span of her classmates. "It gets a bit redundant to have to repeat the same thing so many times, but hopefully working in teams will give them some relief."

If there were any lagging presentations, they weren't apparent to faculty supervisor Marlene Zister, who was very pleased with how smoothly the fair operated.

"These students all designed their own presentations in order to convey their messages to kids of this age, and they've all done a very good job," Zister said.

The stations all featured some sort of activity for the children, and each nursing team had 10 minutes to get its message across to each group, which Zister said was a lesson in effective communication for her students.

The fair, while a major step in the prospective nurse's training, was also an attempt to show the college community that the nursing program is still on the right track despite funding cuts.

"We want to prove that we are still on the front lines," Leonard said. "We know that the nursing profession will open up in the next number of years, and when those jobs are available, we need to be ready to assume them."

Nursing students speak from the heart

By Corina Hill

With February being heart month, several Conestoga students decided to do something for the community.

Four nursing students decided to turn into the Healthy Heart Team and speak at a Catholic primary school in Kitchener.

Diane Funston, Brenda Robinson, Heidi Barrett and Shelly Duncan spoke to students in Grades 4 to 8 at Canadian Martyrs School.

"We had a great time," said Robinson. "We were strictly talking from the heart."

Before going to the presentation Robinson stopped off at a farm and picked up two sets of pigs hearts and lungs as well as a cow's heart. She talked about the different chambers of the heart as well as how the heart functions.

Funston started off each of the four presentations by talking about keeping hearts healthy. She made students jog and take their heart rates to demonstrate the importance of exercise to the heart.

Duncan spoke to students about the effects of stress on the heart. She took an interactive approach to her part of the presentation.

"It was mainly the kids' input," said Duncan.

Barrett said she had a similar

impression. "The younger kids asked a lot of questions."

She talked to the group about nutrition and focused on smart snacking.

With each of the four presentations scheduled to last a half hour, some went over time.

"They didn't seem to mind," said Duncan. "The kids were enjoying it as much as we were."

Preparing for the presentation took a lot of work, the third-semester students said.

"It was a joint effort because everyone had their own piece but they had to work together on growth and development," said Funston.

The nursing students said after going to the school, they want to change the perspective of the profession.

"People look at nurses as at the bedside with the hat. It's not like that," said Barrett.

During a recent interview, the students said nurses are constantly teaching patients and the public about the health field.

"Nursing is totally different than being a doctor," said Barrett.

"They don't get to know the patients like nurses," said Funston. "They talk all through school about collaborative nursing, working as a team."

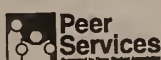


ARE YOUR MARKS LIKE A SEESAW -
SOMETIMES UP, SOMETIMES DOWN?

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Term May 1, 1998 - April 30, 1999

Education Coordinator
Entertainment Manager
Public Relations Manager
Promotions Assistants (3)

Applications are available
at the DSA Office.

Deadline Friday, March 20, 1998.

*Please note these positions are not full time paid positions.
Executives are rewarded by honourarium.



Charest— and office popularity

By Richard Berta

The media, pollsters and spin doctors have all recently come to focus their attention around the diminutive PC party leader, Jean Charest. From a purely objective standpoint, he appears an unlikely figure to warrant such media attention. After all, he is only the leader of the fifth largest party in the House of Commons. Put another way, he is the leader of the smallest party in the House of Commons (unless you count John Nunziata, the Independent, as a party). Most of the votes for Charest and his party came from the Maritimes during the last elections, not exactly an economic powerhouse or an influential part of Canada. So, to reiterate, why is Monsieur Charest getting all this unbridled media attention?

Because the media have decided to depict him as the next potential savior of the country, that's why. Polls indicate Charest is more popular than Lucien Bouchard in Quebec, and could beat Bouchard if he ran against him, provided (and here's the catch) that Charest was leader of the Liberal party.

Daniel Johnson's announcement to step down as leader of the Quebec Liberals was responsible for igniting the media's fantasies about Charest taking over from him and slaying once and for all the separatist serpent.

Of course, the media in their haste to anoint Charest as Canada's "chosen one" have overlooked three important things: 1) that Charest is leader of the PC party and not a member of the Liberals 2) Charest is a federal, not a provincial politician and 3) Charest himself, seems uncomfortable, at least in public, of following the media's script whereby he assumes the mantle of Canada's savior.

Regardless of Charest's sincerity in turning down such a role offered him by the media - at least for now - it is apparent that he is acting in a manner uncharacteristic of a politician.

The media, by contrast, in its gushing praise for him, is behaving in a manner unbecoming an ostensibly objective



institution.

The media's obsession with figures and personalities should not merely be seen as superficial fluff. This myopic focus on personas tends to obscure the more intricate workings of the democratic system and ultimately, to undermine it.

The sex scandal surrounding U.S. President Bill Clinton is case in point. Clinton's supporters, including his wife, Hillary, Vernon Jordan et al. focus on his personality when they defend him, whereas his foes such as independent counsel Kenneth Starr do the same when it comes to smearing him. This nasty squabble on whether Clinton did or didn't shoot through the hoop, although making great soap opera material, actually has little bearing on how the president controls the functions of his office and how he exercises his mandate.

However, at the same time that the media

and public (both within and outside of the United States) are obsessed with Clinton's libido they fail to ask the more important questions concerning the formulation of domestic and foreign policies. Questions such as who formulates policies on social security, health care, education, and are these policies in the public interest? When was the last time there was a debate on these matters? And let's not even mention foreign policy.

The point is, that the focus on personalities, whether it be Clinton in the United States or the media's discovery of Jean Charest carries with it the danger of oversimplifying issues. It carries the danger of implying that our system isn't good enough to stand by itself, but that it needs someone who is extraordinarily charismatic and preferably good looking and telegenic to make it run successfully.

Thus, the damage done to our democratic systems through personality adulation is that its institutions such as parliament are given short shrift, and with them, the average citizen.

For, implicit in any adoration of the individual is that that individual (whether he be politician, general or a celebrity) is somehow above and beyond the law - or at least deserves to be - which in turn, carries with it the implication that he may break it to suit his own ends (in the name of the public interest of course) if need be.

Perhaps Charest himself summed up the media's mindset most succinctly when he responded to a journalist asking him if he felt he could change the future of the country by running against Bouchard: "If one man can save the country, we're in pretty bad shape." However, with all that being said, don't discount anything.

Provincial health care hung up on money issue

By Rita Fatila

It's sad that this province's health care system, which is supposed to be universal and blind to differences in class, is so hung up on money.

In a Kitchener Record article, it was revealed that a magnetic resonance imaging machine in Brantford, a machine that diagnoses cancer better than surgery, has been barely used even though there is a waiting list six months long for people all over the region.

Due to insufficient funding, the Brantford MRI runs from Monday to Friday eight

hours a day. While that may seem like a lot, Northtown Imaging of Buffalo, a private American clinic, runs its MRI 12 hours a day, seven days a week. That's why 3,000 Canadians, including 450 people from Waterloo region, pay \$650 to be treated in Buffalo.

It's great if someone can afford it, but what about all those people waiting to be diagnosed who must depend on Ontario's health plan and the long waiting lists?

This is a case of money becoming so important that it becomes the deciding factor between life and death.

Another case of this has been presented

by the Ontario Provincial Working Group on Hysterectomy.

The group released a report claiming that many women are receiving unnecessary hysterectomies only because doctors make more money by performing surgery than they do from performing non-surgical methods.

The report also found that women in northern and southwestern Ontario are three times as likely to have a hysterectomy as a woman who either lives in Toronto or near a medical college.

Overall, Canada has the second-highest rate of hysterectomies in the world. The

United States has the highest.

Any surgery is risky, and a hysterectomy is no exception. While in cases of uterine cancer the surgery is necessary, it is non-cancerous conditions such as fibroid tumors and prolapse that are filling doctors' pockets while unnecessarily endangering women's lives.

While there may be no solution for greed, information on alternative remedies, such as hormone medication, can reduce the amount of hysterectomies. Compassion on the part of the government would probably reduce the number of people waiting to be diagnosed in Brantford.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

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*Opinion...***Boys' suicides raise concern**

By Jeannette Altwegg

Some blame the music kids listen to today. Others maintain it's the fault of negligent parents. Still others assert that it's society in general, and the importance it places on the opinions of peers, that allows teens to end their lives without thought of the consequences.

A 1996 poll by Statistics Canada found that suicide is the second leading cause of death in teens. For males aged 15 to 19, the suicide rate is 23 per cent while for females it's 13 per cent. Suicide is the leading cause of death in males aged 20 to 44.

In a recent example, two youths killed themselves by laying on some railway tracks wearing their cadet uniforms and waiting for the train to roll over them. The two boys, 16 and 17 years old, had run away from school only 40 hours earlier, telling their friends they were going to British Columbia.

However, instead of heading out west, they decided to end their lives. It makes one wonder what could possibly have been so awful about their lives to require such a drastic exit?

The sad thing about this situation, and any other suicide, is that it's always those who are left alive who have to feel the burden of guilt. The parents, the siblings, the friends. All are left to wonder whether it was something they said or did that pushed the person over the edge.

One of the main problems with today's society is the way everyone is pre-occupied with personal appearance. It's on TV, in magazines, even the people we are surrounded by, comment on our looks.

The worst of it comes from places we wouldn't immediately think of, at work or in the classroom. School, especially, can be a harsh environment for children who look different or don't have the same privileges as their peers.

Who was it who said "kids say the darndest things"? It's true. Children are brutally honest. They may not realize the impact their comments have on the later life of those they constantly exclude and make fun of.

Someone once said that the tongue is the one part of our anatomy that is least controllable, which is true. How many times have you said something incredibly insensitive, wishing you could take it back?

Another problem is that there seems to be this societal view that individuals should have the right to choose the time and the place of their own death.

Section 241(b) of the Criminal Code of Canada states that anyone who counsels or aids a person to commit suicide is liable to a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison. There is no law to forbid anyone from killing him or herself in Canada.

The world can seem pretty screwed up at times and there are people from all walks of life who, although they may not admit it openly, have thought about ending their lives. But, they decided to live on for some reason or another.

They must have understood the one thing that seems to elude those who let themselves become completely immersed in their problems. Life is too precious to waste on self-pity.

Now, before everyone starts to get angry with such a blunt statement, let's examine the facts. Depression may be clinically proven to be a disease, but, it is also important to note that feeling sorry for yourself is something that feeds on itself.

The worse you make out your situation to be, the more depressed you become about it. There's nothing scientific about that.

**Bring on those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer**

Conestoga nursing students, Trisha Hare, Leola Eden and Erin Arbuckle, enjoy the first summer-like day by the pond Feb. 25.

Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr reads Spoke



Six new executive members to be hired by DSA

Four promotions assistants, an entertainment manager and education co-ordinator positions available

By Erica Ayliffe

It's that time of the year again: the Doon Student Association is looking to hire six new executive members.

The positions available are entertainment manager, education co-ordinator and four promotions assistant positions.

The jobs run from May 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999 and students are expected to put in a minimum of 10 hours a week, even during the summer.

Becky Boertien, the DSA's director of student life, said sometimes working around students' summer schedules can be difficult, but it can be done.

In fact, last year the organization was short two promotions assistants in the summer because not enough students applied for the jobs.

The responsibilities that go along with a being the entertainment manager include booking entertainment for the year and negotiating contracts. The person in charge of that position is paid an honorarium of \$1,325. The DSA is proposing to the board of directors that the amount be increased to \$1,400.

The education coordinator, said Boertien, is the DSA's representative for provincial and national lobbying associations. The group is a member of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association. This executive also sits on the college's practices, policies and procedures committee. Boertien said the education coordinator is responsible for knowing the regulations concerning academics at the college. This executive is also a liaison to student services.

The honorarium for this job is currently \$1,175. The DSA is proposing this amount be increased to \$1,500. Boertien said the large proposed increase matches the responsibilities of this job.

The four promotions assistants are responsible for DSA advertising, but also hold smaller positions.

One assistant is in charge of pubs. This means they are responsible for obtaining alcohol licenses for DSA events. This year the group held only two licensed events which were both dinner shows. This person is also responsible for making arrangements for DSA pub nights.

Promotions assistants receive a \$920 honorarium. The DSA is proposing that amount be rounded up to \$1,000.

There is also an assistant responsible for DSA clubs and awareness weeks. This person is in charge of all clubs, but since club involvement has been down in the past few years, according to Boertien, the added responsibility of awareness weeks has been added on to this position. The DSA's vice-president of student affairs organizes these weeks, and will now be assisted by a promotions assistant.

There is also an entertainment assistant. This person sets up entertainment events, and helps the entertainment manager with ideas and booking shows.

The fourth promotions assistant position didn't have a specific 'other' job this year, but next year will be the DSA's public relations manager. They will deal with the media, solicit sponsorships for the group and its events and communicate with internal and external groups and

committees like the Conestoga Business Students Association.

Boertien said the DSA is proposing an increase in pay for each position because a raise hasn't been administered for a few years.

Any student who applies for these positions must be a full-time student at Conestoga and must have a grade average of 65 per cent.

Boertien said the group looks for different qualities and experience depending on the job.

She said experience with bands and sound systems are good qualifications for potential entertainment managers.

DSA makes cash donation to college peer tutoring program

By Erica Ayliffe

The Doon Student Association presented student services with a cheque worth \$2,800 on Feb. 25 to go towards their peer tutoring program.

Myrna Nicholas of student services, who accepted the donation from the DSA's director of student life, Becky Boertien, said the DSA has been giving money to the service for the past nine or 10 years.

"The donation helps," she said. "But the support the DSA gives us helps immensely."

Nicholas said the DSA is always quick to support student services and the peer tutoring program.

This year the organization designed and made posters for the tutoring service. They are also in the process of making a web page for peer services.

The education co-ordinator should be approachable, said Boertien, because they are there to answer students' questions on the college and its rules.

Promotions assistants should have some volunteer experience especially with special events, she said. Another bonus is showing interest in the DSA, such as volunteering to help out at the group's events, said Boertien.

The deadline for the applications is March 20, but Boertien said that date will be extended if few people apply.

Applicants will go through either one or two interviews which will be conducted by the DSA president,

vice-president of student affairs, vice-president of operations and Boertien.

The interview process usually takes around two weeks, said Boertien.

Elections were already held for the three voted DSA positions - president, vice-president of operations and vice-president of student affairs.

Jenn Hussey, a DSA promotions assistant was acclaimed vice-president of operations. Gerry Cleaves, the vice-president of student affairs will continue with that position next year. Kristin Murphy, the chair of the DSA's board of directors, was acclaimed president.



Becky Boertien, DSA director of student life, presents Myrna Nicholas of student services with a \$2,800 cheque.

(Photo by Erica Ayliffe)

"The DSA never ceases to amaze me on how much they support the student body," said Nicholas. "Any kind of support I ask for, they readily give," she said.

She added that any kind of donation the DSA gives still goes through the DSA's board of directors made up of students who approve the group's decisions.

Boertien, said the group donates to the service because of the importance of peer tutoring to students.

She said the DSA began donating the money years ago because they want the program to be a partnership venture between student services and the DSA, not a program run solely by the college.

Each year an amount of money is set aside in the DSA's budget for the peer tutoring program.

Nicholas said a number of colleges in Ontario run similar tutoring programs, but funding can come from the college, the student council or both. She said Conestoga is lucky to have help from both the college and DSA.

The peer tutoring program offers tutoring to any student, in almost any course.

The cost is \$15 for five hours, which is pretty cheap compared to private tutoring costs, said Nicholas.

Tutors are paid \$8 to \$10 an hour. Some of that pay is subsidized by the government if the student receives OSAP.

Movie of The Week

Wed. March 18
1:30 pm
The Sanctuary



DSA bus trip

TORONTO RAPTORS

Vs. Chicago Bulls
Sun. March 22

and

Vs. LA Lakers
Tues. March 31

Tickets \$45 (for each game)
on sale Mon. Feb. 23
Limited tickets available
2 tickets per student



Conestoga to co-host forensics conference

By Corina Hill

Conestoga College will be filled with nearly 120 identification officers from across Canada in June when the Canadian Identification Society will be holding its annual conference at the school.

Conestoga instructor Brent Walker is a second vice-president of the CIS and worked hard to bring the conference to the school.

Before becoming an instructor, Walker was an identification officer with Durham Regional Police Services.

Now, Walker is the chairman for the 21st annual event focusing on new technology in the field of forensics. The conference will be entitled Forensic Technology - Cutting a New Edge.

"It includes mostly people from Canada," said Walker. "One of the interesting things is that we've invited two officers from Haiti."

The four-day conference is the first of its kind, both for the college and for the organization.

The size of the conference is limited to the number of chairs in room 2A56, where the majority of classroom sessions will be held.

"In the middle of the week, we'll have computer training sessions," said Walker.

Several computer labs at the college will be used for four unique sessions.

Smith and Wesson will be using one lab to run a computerized program for facial composites. The program has a number of basic features which can be changed and altered to come up with a composite likeness.

"A lot of places are using the old method," said Walker, adding that the purpose of the conference is to give identification officers new options that will save time.

Another lab will be used to demonstrate how Adobe Photoshop can be used to create fingerprint charts. "You're reducing eight hours of work into two or three hours," said Walker.

With Conestoga's access to the Internet, one lab will be used to help familiarize the specialized police officers to the Internet and crimes that are involved therein.

The fourth session will focus on using Autocad to draw up crime scenes on the computer.

The blue cafeteria will have exhibitors who are from different organizations showing all kinds of relevant information.

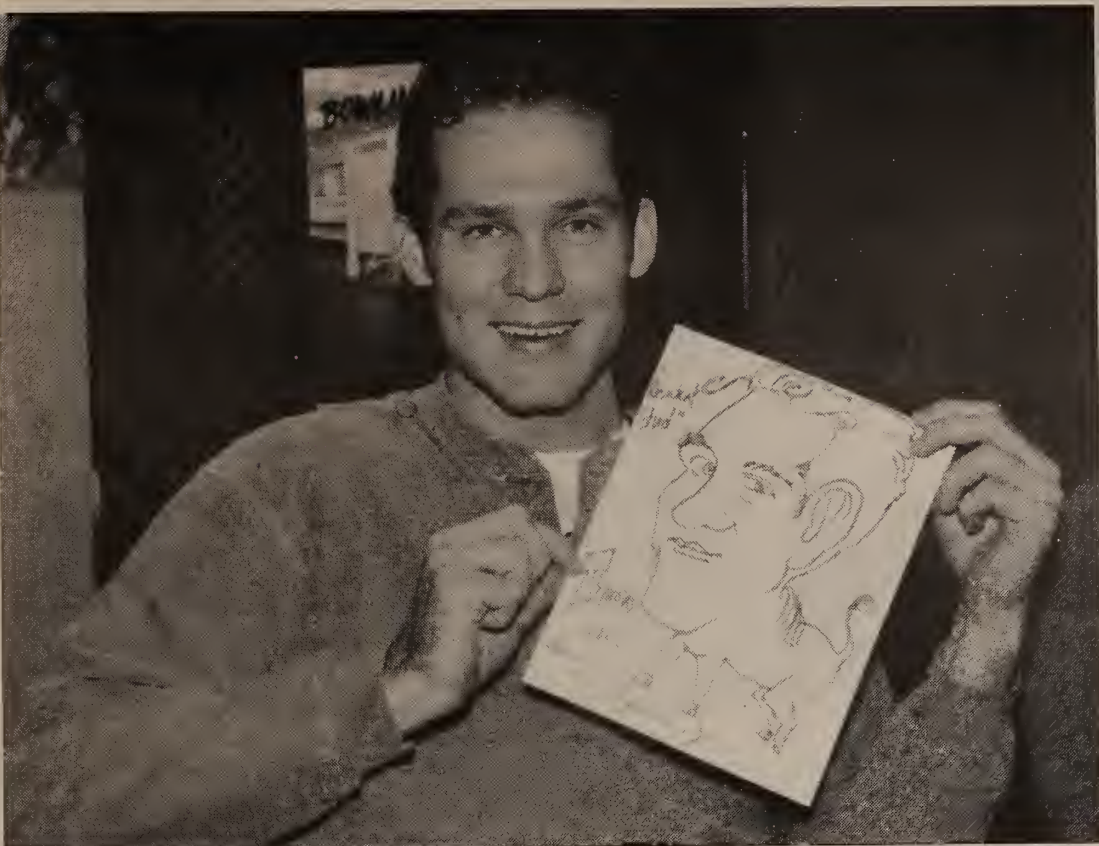
"It's like an identification trade show," said the former identification officer.

The conference will be co-hosted by Conestoga College, the Waterloo Regional Police Services, the Guelph Police Services as well as the Brantford Police Service.

"One of the interesting things is that we have invited two officers from Haiti."

Brent Walker,

Conestoga instructor



Perfect match

Thomas Mueller holds a caricature of himself drawn by illustrator David Whitley of Kitchener. Whitley was hired by the DSA to draw caricatures in the Sanctuary on Feb. 24, free of charge to students.

(Photo by Casey Johnson)

Federal budget includes help for post-secondary students

By Victoria Long

Two more announcements of coming changes to assistance for students from the provincial and federal levels of government have been made since the changes announced by Education Minister Dave Johnson on Feb. 13.

A Feb. 20 press release said Johnson had asked "lenders to make it easier for students to afford a postsecondary education by making income-contingent repayment options available to students who ask for them, starting no later than September 1998."

The release said he "invited" banks to submit proposals by March 25, which would allow repayment to be extended to 15 years from the current nine-and-a-half-year period, and allow payments to start low (up to 12 months' payments could just cover interest) and then increase as the individual's earnings went up.

The federal budget, released on Feb. 25, had more good news for future students than for those currently in the middle of their course of study.

Current students can look forward to tax relief on interest payments on student loans. Under the new budget, "Individuals will be allowed to claim a 17 per cent federal tax credit on the interest portion of payments of federal and provincial student loans" on their 1998 tax returns, said a Feb. 25 Toronto Star article.

Like the provincial government, "Ottawa will ask banks to extend the loan repayment period from 10 to 15 years. And if a graduate still has trouble paying off the loan, the government will start to decrease the loan principal, if annual payments exceed, on average, 15 per cent of income," the article said.

Ottawa plans to spend \$100 million annually to make the Canada Study Grants program, which

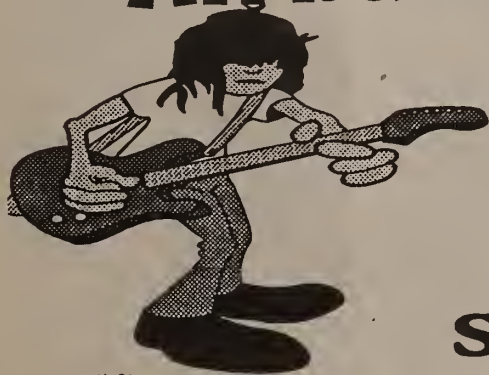
gives full- and part-time single-parent students relief of up to \$3,000 a year, to more than 25,000 students.

The education tax credit will be extended to include a quarter million part-time students, who will be able to claim the \$60 monthly education credit while they are enrolled in a course, according to the Star.

In addition, starting next year, Canadians will be permitted to borrow, tax-free, up to \$10,000 a year, or \$20,000 over four years, from their RRSPs to support full-time education and training for themselves or their spouses.

Starting in the year 2000, the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation's \$2.5-billion endowment will provide 100,000 scholarships a year for 10 years to low- and middle-income students. The Star called this the largest investment ever made by Ottawa for higher-education students.

Airband Contest



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Do you have the luck of the Irish?

Story and photos by
Rachel Pearce

While seven out of 12 Conestoga students surveyed on Doon campus believe in luck, not one of them said they had the luck of the Irish.

"Sure, I believe in luck," said KerriAnn Crofts, a general business student. "But no, I'm not very lucky. I buy scratch and win tickets a lot and I never win."

"Yeah, I believe in luck," said Amanda Heer, another general business student. "I get all my luck at once."

Heer said her while her luck is sometimes good, at other times it's quite bad. She also said she believes in good luck charms. "For exams," she said, "I wear my boyfriend's clothes."

Mike Brandt, a law and security administration student, said sometimes people are lucky, but it is fate that rules.

"You can change your luck, but you can't change your fate," said Brandt, who does not consider himself a lucky person. "I have won at the casino, but I probably lost more than I won."

"No luck is good luck," said Derek Pescod, a computer programming analyst (CPA) student. "You can't believe in fate and luck at the same time, and I believe in fate."

George Santos, another CPA student, said he wasn't really sure what to think about luck.

"I have no luck whatsoever," he said. He and his friends laughed and made references to the fact that he is accident prone. When asked if he believed in good luck charms, he replied: "Do you have one?"

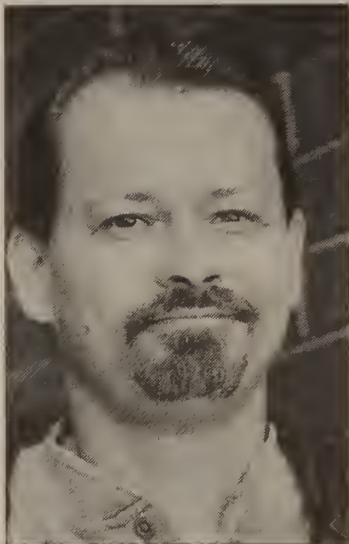
"No, I don't believe in luck," said Donald Johnstone, a CPA student. "There are only opportunities."

A believer in fate, electrical engineering technology student Douglas Giesel said he does not believe in luck.

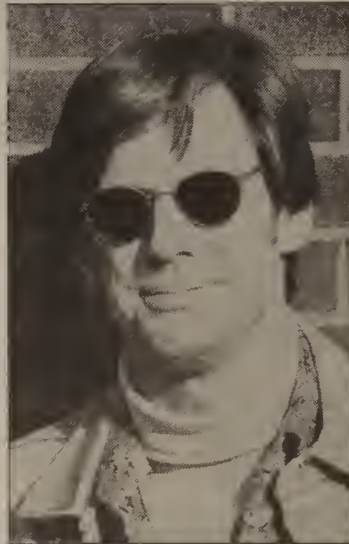
"No, not at all," he said. "I believe everything happens for a reason." Giesel said he has experienced a few things during his life that lead him feel this way. He said there was once an incident in which he was in need of some money, and it suddenly came to him from a totally unexpected place, "out of the blue."



Amanda Heer, general business program.



Mike Brandt, law and security administration program.



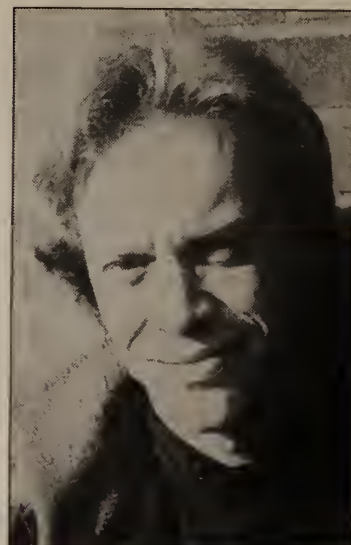
Donald Johnstone, computer programmer/analyst program.



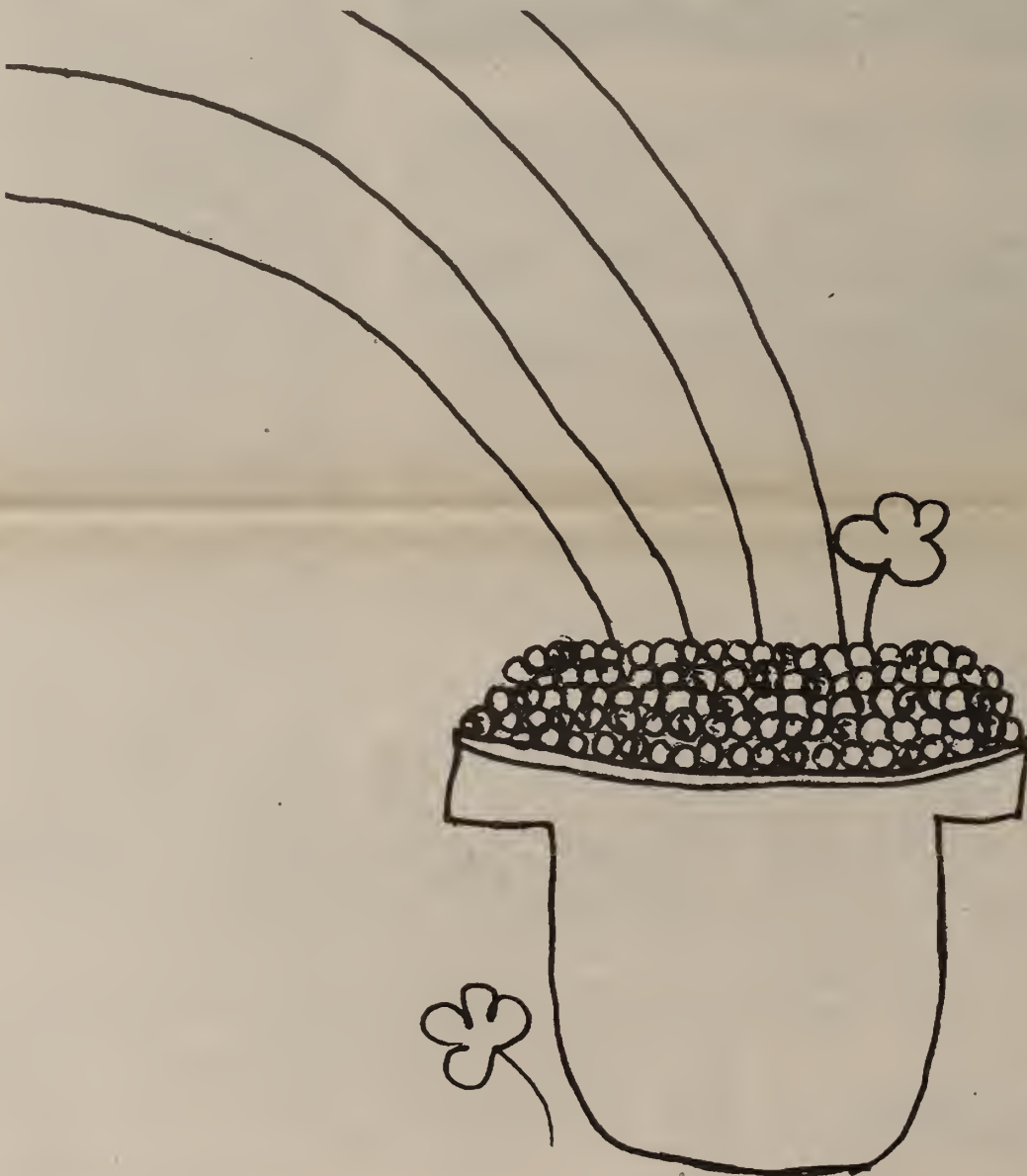
Derek Pescod, computer programmer/analyst program.



KerriAnne Crofts, general business program



Douglas Giesel, electrical engineering technician program.



St. Patrick's day in history and legend

By Jamie Yates

When it comes to St. Patrick's Day, on March 17, one often thinks of leprechauns, four-leaf clovers and green beer. But there's more to St. Patty's Day than just lucky charms and green beverages.

Actual history and legend are involved. An article, found at www.st-patricks-day.com, said the actual man, St. Patrick, was born in Scotland, then kidnapped, and sold in Ireland as a slave. After learning the Irish language, he made his escape, eventually

being ordained a deacon, then a priest, and finally, a bishop.

St. Patrick is known commonly around the world for having driven the snakes from Ireland, the article said. Tales of St. Patrick tell of his standing on a hill and using a wooden staff to drive the snakes to the sea, banishing them from Ireland forever.

St. Patrick died in 493 A.D. and was buried in Downpatrick, County Down. His jawbone was preserved in a silver shrine. One legend says St. Patrick ended his days in Glastonbury and was buried there. The Chapel of St.

Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey.

Montague Larkin, executive director of the Ireland Fund of Canada, said St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated for many centuries. "It is one of the many days of the year when the Irish feel like getting together," he said. "It's a special day."

The Ireland Fund of Canada is an international organization which raises money for projects such as education, youth employment and drug rehabilitation in all of Ireland, Larkin said. The organization attempts to help the

damage of a troubled time in Ireland.

Larkin added that the Canadian branch was started about 20 years ago by Hilary Weston, now lieutenant-governor of Ontario.

The Ireland Fund is having an annual St. Patrick's Day lunch at the Convention Centre in Toronto. "Approximately 1,200 people are expected to attend."

When asked why St. Patrick's Day is an important event, Larkin said "St. Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland."

"It is a natural time of year for the Irish to hold a party," he said.



George Santos, computer programmer/analyst program.

Lucky Charms

By Jamie Yates

There are many charms, symbols and objects people associate with good luck, the most common one on St. Patty's day being the four leaf-clover.

One common lucky charm is the horseshoe. An article, found at www.sonic.net, said the most commonly encountered lucky charm in North America is the horseshoe. It said the use of worn-out horseshoes originated in Europe where they are used as amulets above or next to doorways.

The article said the horseshoe symbol is linked to the pagan Moon goddesses of ancient Europe, such as Artemis or Diana, and that the symbol invokes the protection of the goddesses.

In most of Europe, the protective horseshoes are hung facing downward, but in some parts of Ireland and Britain, people hang the shoes upward so the luck will not pour out.

Modern horseshoe jewellery, it said, is worn not for protection, but for its luck. Because of the shoe's natural association with horse-racing, the miniature horseshoe has become a gambler's lucky charm as well.

The same Internet article said the belief of a rabbit's foot being lucky has become commonplace in American culture. From folklore in earlier decades, only the left hind foot of a rabbit was considered lucky and the holder had to rub the foot to activate the luck.

Why is a rabbit's foot lucky? The article said the luck of the rabbit foot is monetary, not because of the swiftness or reproductive proficiency of a rabbit. The article added that, currently, the rabbit's foot has become rare, probably due to animal rights. A third symbol that is considered lucky is an elephant. The elephant charm, found in America and Europe, is historically linked to the era of British colonialism in India and became popular in Europe during the late 19th century. The origins



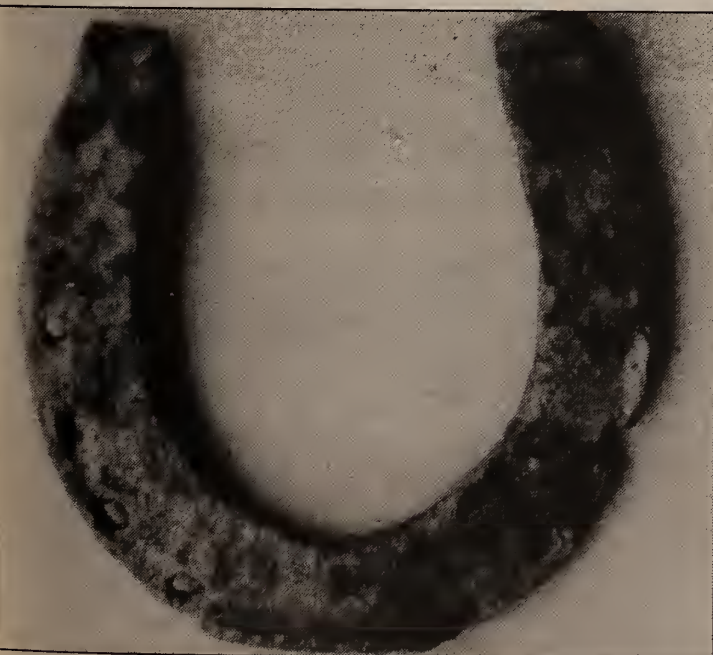
Safe Break Awareness Week

Duncan McGregor and first year social services Conestoga College student, Tara Davey, represented the Kitchener Family Awareness Centre during Safe Break Awareness Week. In addition to being on hand at their pamphlet display, Davey and McGregor gave a noon-hour talk on Feb. 25 to students in the Sanctuary.

(Photo by Victoria Long)

of the lucky elephant charm, it said, can be found in the Hindu religion of India. The Hindu god, Ganesha, who has an elephant's head, is worshipped as an opener of the way and luck god.

The article added that the American fascination with the lucky elephant god of India, as well as the white elephants of Thailand, combined to form the lucky elephant knick-knack appeal. Elephant charms and figures are still made and used, but their popularity is currently decreasing.



Lucky horseshoes are used as a protective talisman when hung above or next to doorways.
(Photo by Jamie Yates)

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in The Sanctuary



Chicopee season good despite mild February weather

By Matt Harris

And El Nino thought it would have the last laugh. Skiers in the Kitchener-Waterloo area are still able to glide down the slopes at Chicopee Ski Club despite mild temperatures and unseasonable conditions.

Pro shop manager Peter Schwirtlich said the club has its ups and downs but has still had a good season thus far.

"We had five or six straight good weekends recently," he said. "Our biggest problem so far was the rain we had in early January. We were forced to shut down the ski and snowboard schools for a couple of days."

"Our biggest problem so far was the rain we had in early January."

*Peter Schwirtlich,
pro shop manager*

than natural snow," she said. "Therefore, it takes longer to melt than natural snow. As far as the runs go, we've been relying on what has already fallen."

She said they have not had to cancel any events the club had planned and the school programs were still running well.

"The school programs are booked well in advance. Teachers just phone us up and ask us how the conditions are," Bekiroski said. "It's the general public traffic that hasn't been so good."

Schwirtlich agreed, saying lift-ticket sales were hit hard with the irregular conditions.

"Some people think it's too cold while others think it's too warm," he said. "Most of the people coming out now are hard-core skiers."

The club hopes to maintain the conditions until mid-March to catch the schools' March break.

"In an average day around this time of year, you might get around six to seven hours of temperatures warm enough to melt the snow," he said. "The temperature begins to drop toward zero later in the afternoon. As long as we have freezing conditions through most nights, everything should last for a while longer."

Both Bekiroski and Schwirtlich said the membership sales were relatively unaffected, stating most of them were sold in the early fall.

For any information about conditions or prices, contact Chicopee at 894-5610. To find out about snow conditions, call 894-5993.



Chicopee ski club in Kitchener was a bee hive of activity despite the warmer temperatures during February.

(Photo by Dan Meagher)

Company flooded with requests for Canadian Olympic apparel

By Matt Harris

They were the best dressed people in Nagano. Canadian Olympic outfits were the hottest commodity in the athlete's villiages and that desire has carried over at home as well.

Roots, the Canadian-based clothing company who outfitted Team Canada at the Olympics, has been

flooded with demands for their popular hats, jackets and other articles of clothes. And the two outlets in Waterloo Region are right on the front line.

Michelle Doiron, a salesperson at the Fairview Park Mall store, said the demand began just as the Games started.

"There were people going over (to Nagano) who wanted to take something with them," she said. "And after the opening ceremonies, things really started going."

She said the Olympic clothing line had been in stores since the fall and the hats were the biggest seller. "We knew it would sell pretty well," she added.

Roots is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Doiron said, and it wanted to give something back to the country by outfitting its athletes.

"We are going to fill every order," she said. "From now on, all

orders are paid up front so there is no unnecessary overproduction."

Melanie Ling, manager of the Conestoga Mall store in Waterloo, said the lineup was right out the door following the opening ceremonies.

"The hats are selling really well," she said. "The coats with the leather sleeves are going fairly well, too."

Ling said they didn't expect the rush, adding she expects it to carry over until late March or early April. The waiting period for most items as of publication time was close to four weeks.

"We just had an order go out this week with about 580 names on it, most of them wanting hats," Doiron said. The hats retail for 39.95 plus tax.

To handle the unexpected crush of orders, Roots has set up a toll-free telephone line that allows people to call in an order and have it directly shipped to their home.

OCAA soccer championships coming to Conestoga's rec centre

By Michael Hilborn

The recreation centre will host the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association men's and women's indoor soccer championships on Fri., Mar. 20 and Sat., Mar. 21.

There will be six teams in each tournament in two pools of three.

Although the Conestoga Condors men's team did not qualify, the women's team will play their first game Friday at 10 a.m. against Nipissing. Their

next match will be at 6 p.m. against Royal Military College.

The playoffs are scheduled for Saturday with the bronze medal game for women's teams set for 2 p.m. followed by the gold medal women's game at 4:10 p.m.

The two-day event should prove to be a highly entertaining affair for students.

For more information contact the Student Athletic Council office at the recreation centre.

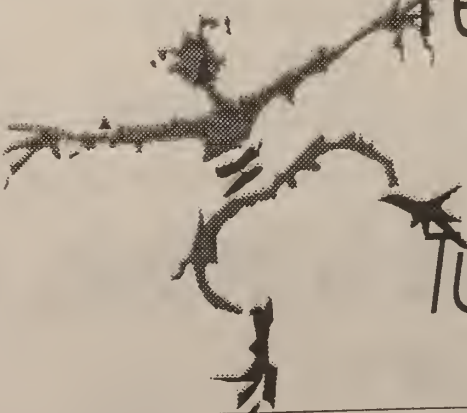
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Canada

band profile

The Minatures: larger than life

story and photo by Lisa Roberts

Don't let them fool you. The Minatures are bigger than their name implies. The five-member Kitchener band proved it by winning the DSA-sponsored battle of the bands, called Doonstock, at Mrs. Robinson's on Feb. 25.

The members, drummer Nick Skalkos, bassist Steve Toms, percussionist Shawn Feeney, guitarist/singer Ian Smith, and guitarist Chris Finn, have been together for five years. They already played in two other competitions, both of which they won.

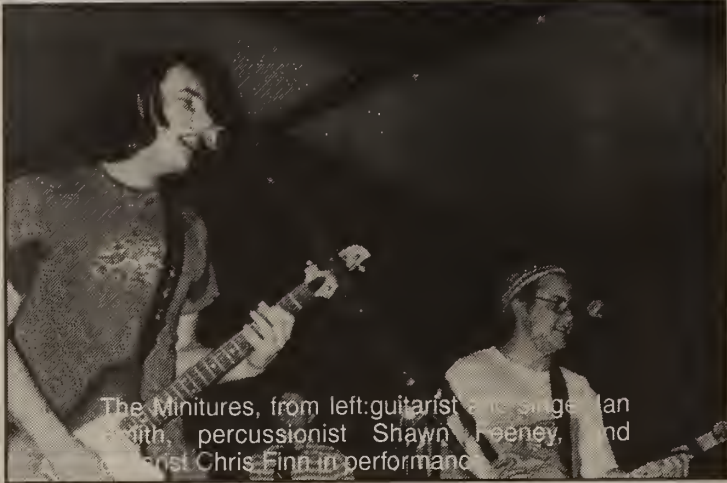
"We're just here for fun," said Finn, 21, a third semester journalism student at Conestoga, of the competition. "We like to play for other people. We're not here just to compete; we're here for a good time and to drink beer."

The guys met through their involvement in the Kitchener-Waterloo music scene when they were still high school students.

However, The Minatures' formation is an unusual story for a progressive rock band.

"Steve and Nick were playing Caribbean music on a cruise boat I was on a few years ago," said Smith, 20. "I saw them play, and I was drunk so I went up and did a Frank Sinatra tune with them."

That song was the classic Strangers In The Night, but was improvised as Flowers In The Night because of Smith's



The Minatures, from left: guitarist and singer Ian Smith, percussionist Shawn Feeney, and guitarist Chris Finn in performance.

impromptu appearance.

The Minatures' first demo came out in 1995, but it took a year to record, according to Finn. "The studio cost \$15 per hour, and it was hard to come up with the money when we were in high school," he explained.

The combination of talents, including percussion and jazzy guitar, seems to work for the group, who have opened for The Gandharvas and Salmonblaster. But the guys use a deadpan humor when they assess how things work out with each other.

"I still don't know," joked Toms, 21. "I'm just keeping myself occupied."

They were considerably low-key when it came to winning the

competition at Mrs. Robinson's on Feb. 25. "It was good to play, but we didn't make any important connections," said Smith.

"It feels good to win something," agreed 20-year-old Feeney. "It feels like winning the Olympics."

They were unanimous in their support of the area's music scene in general, and of the bands that performed at Doonstock.

"I liked Soulspine a lot," said Finn. "They reminded me of Sebadoh's Lou Barlow. We thought all the bands were good. It felt great to win, but we were very surprised."

"Now that we're supposed to go to Toronto (for the semi-finals), is the DSA going to pay for our gas to get there?"

No Fixed Address

story and photo by Amy Sonnenberg

Doonstock proved to be a memorable evening for the band No Fixed Address, who earned second place in the battle of the bands at Mrs. Robinson's Feb. 25.

Tyson Linhofer, lead guitarist for the band, said the band was surprised to have placed so well, but happy nonetheless.

"This win gives us a lot of motivation to work on our music," Linhofer said.

The current lineup includes Linhofer on guitar, Rob Malcolmson on bass, vocalist Emiliano Rapoport, and drummer Florin Stoia, who joined the band only five weeks before the gig.

The original three members were part of No Fixed Address, off and on, for years, and wrote several songs together, such as Step Outside and Fireball, which they performed at Doonstock.

However, the new lineup prompted the creation of the song Refixed, symbolizing a new beginning.

Some of the bands that have influenced No Fixed Address are Collective Soul, Metallica, I Mother Earth and the Tea Party. But Linhofer said the band really cannot be compared to anything.

"These bands have influenced the reason we play, not the way we play," he said. "Our songs may have pieces of these bands, but we want to be original."

Linhof, a second-year management studies student at Conestoga, hopes that one day their

"alternative rock, sometimes with a different twist," will do the same for others like his band.

"Our goal is to create a unique sound that may one day influence someone else," he said.

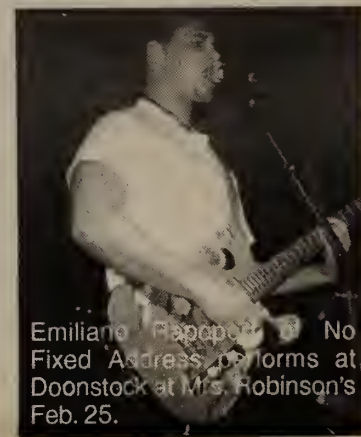
Until then, No Fixed Address has their work cut out for them.

"Right now, we're just going to keep on plucking away," Linhofer said. "We want to get rid of, or rework the old stuff, make some new stuff and release a demo CD."

If they keep on the right track, No Fixed Address just may be able to make their name a reality.

"We got our name from the idea that a band that's constantly touring has no fixed address," Linhofer said. "We want to be able to live up to our name."

And the band appears to be well on their way. They were spotted at Doonstock by an employee of Sharky's Pool and Pub and were asked to perform at the bar.



Emiliano Rapoport of No Fixed Address performs at Doonstock at Mrs. Robinson's Feb. 25.

Variety rules at Doonstock

by Amy Sonnenberg

The Doon Student Association held their battle of the bands at Mrs. Robinson's Feb. 25 before an impressive turnout.

Seven acts competed in Doonstock for cash and the chance to represent Conestoga College at the Canadian New Music Explosion in Toronto.

The Minatures took first place while No Fixed Address and Derivation took second and third place respectively. But there were four other acts that performed that night which deserve recognition as well.

The first performance was by a singing trio called Verse O'Tyle. Faith Walker, Tessa Sebro and her sister Georgette Sebro, a second-year marketing student at Conestoga, sang two original songs entitled Come On Over and Love Unconditional.

The music has a rhythm and blues feel, but Walker said they cannot be tagged with a particular label. "That's why we're called Verse O'Tyle," she said. "All our songs are different, we don't have a specific style."

Keep an eye out for their CD called Time to Shine, with a tentative release date near the end of March.

Next up was a solo artist simply called Sasha. A second-year mechanical engineering student, Sasha Gruetzmacher performed You Were Meant for Me and Near You Always, both originally recorded by Jewel.

Influenced by female musical heavyweights like Sarah McLaughlin and Lisa Loeb, Gruetzmacher gained a lot of her musical experience from church. However, she said she'd like to perform more outside of church.

"I'd like to do something like sing in a coffee shop like Phoebe on Friends," she said. "I want to perform in a relaxed atmosphere like that."

Gruetzmacher added her goal was to expand musically. "I'd like to be able to play more than Jewel," she laughed.

The following presentation was by another Conestoga mechanical engineering student named Jeremy Harrower.

He performed two original blues songs entitled Bleeding Heart Blues and Falling Down, complete with slide guitar. Harrower said he's been inspired by such classics as Eric Clapton, John Lee Hooker and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Right now, Harrower is busy in school, but said he has his sights on something simple like playing in a bar house band.

Later in the evening, a group of five named Soulspine took the stage. Performing two originals entitled Conscience Personified and It Won't Be Long, the band changed pace a little by covering Boney M's Rasputine.

Vocalist and guitarist Danny Pires, along with guitarists Phil Kennedy and Ed Coutts, bassist Mark Hambly and drummer Ryan Stiles, said the band plans on recording a record themselves and even starting their own label.

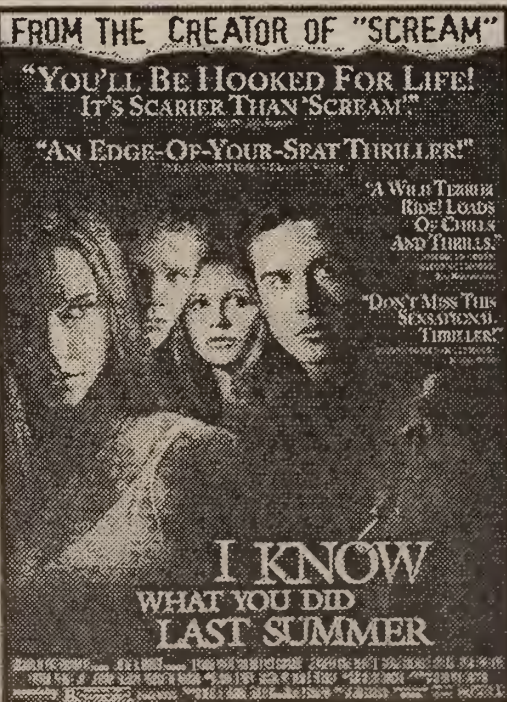
The members of Soulspine said their music cannot be labeled and play a broad spectrum of musical styles.

Coutts, a second-year electronics engineering technology student, said if anyone wants to contact the band for whatever reason, he can be reached via email at 60982238@conestogac.on.ca.

Even though only one band could walk away a winner, all the performers deserve credit for a job well done.



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Getting to the root of Derivation

story and photo by Natalie Schneider

It was a night to support local musicians and to celebrate music. People gathered at Mrs. Robinson's in Kitchener Feb. 25 to witness the Battle of the Bands as the best of the best showed what they are made of.

The event hosted by the Doon Student Association was a perfect opportunity to show off the musical talent that graces the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Coming in third was the band Derivation.

Lead singer Brooke Parry's stage presence supported by an amazing band has been successful for Derivation in the time they have been together. Formed in the fall of 1995 they have had continued luck in the local music scene, as well as in southern Ontario.

Members Parry, guitarists Wojtek Kubicki and Rolland Sike, drummer Olaf Szester and bassist Chris Pepper have shared the stage with artists like Weeping Tile, Holly McNarland, Shannon Lyon and The Pursuit of Happiness.

The band has released a three-song demo and are currently recording their debut CD on the Factor label. The fact that the five member band hooked up has a lot to do with fate, said Parry in an interview after their show. Initially hooking up with Szester, they eventually found the other three members to finish what would become Derivation.

"Olaf and Wojtek came from Poland when they were little, and they ended up in Kitchener. I'm not from around here, so that I would end up going to the same



Brooke Parry of Derivation performs at Doonstock at Mrs. Robinson's Feb. 25.

school in Kitchener is sort of weird," said Parry.

Being in the music industry can cause immense pressure, but they seem to keep levelheaded about the whole thing.

"After we met Paul (manager), there was more pressure because we had to start listening to all this stuff like we have to get tighter and we have to do this and this. When we started, for me it was just a garage thing. I had this intent of going further with it, but I didn't think it would go this far," said Szester.

Getting used to the limelight has made it fun, said Parry. "Our first gig we played in a real club was at Lee's Palace in Toronto. Wojtek's guitar came unplugged during a solo and all this stuff went wrong. There's a little more pressure and we're starting to have fun with

that," said Parry.

When it comes to songwriting and performing, Derivation takes a professional attitude, making it hard to believe they've been a band for only three years.

The songwriting aspect is handled by Parry and Kubicki. "Some of the songs are looking at things from a distance. It's a whole perspective, like the world's good or the world's bad, whatever I'm feeling at that moment. Then some of them are real thing like fights or relationships," said Parry.

What's best about being in a band is attention, said Parry. "It's always nice. Plus it's a good excuse for friends to get together because it's a gathering point."

For Szester the worst part about it all is that because he is the drummer nobody in the audience acknowledges him after a show.

"After a show you come down and everyone runs to Wojtek or the other people in the front and say 'great show'. I walk around and no one knows me. I'm just the person behind the drumset so they're like who's this loser. Well I need some attention," said Szester.

The members of Derivation are unforgettable on stage and the future looks promising for them as they prepare to release their CD.

On March 26th Echo, a local entertainment magazine, is hosting Derivation's CD release party which will be held at Mrs. Robinson's. Then on March 28 they will be heading to Fanshawe College in London to open for the Gandharvas.

dumb as sheep: leading the flock

by Lisa Roberts

When one thinks of mainstream gospel, one thinks of bands like Jars Of Clay and DC Talk. Guelph band, dumb as sheep, can be comfortably added to that list.

Composing of drummer Cam Guthrie, guitarist Andrew Stuart, Paul Heppleston who plays the "louder guitar," and bassist/vocalist Rich Woodward, dumb as sheep are into spreading a positive feeling through playing their music instead of preaching.

"Christianity isn't as much a main theme in our music as people would think," said Heppleston. "It's more about struggles, trials, and events that take place in human lives. Faith in Christ is the underlying theme."

For the band's members, writing songs about their beliefs is inevitable. "We must write about relevant things," said Guthrie.

"Because Christ is relevant in our lives, it comes up in our songs."

The Christian market is small in Canada due to lack of both funds and exposure.

However, this won't stop the band from expressing their beliefs through their music.

"We will never compromise what we believe in," said Heppleston. "As Christians, we refuse to condemn anyone."

They have opted for playing a number of performances, both local and in the United States, over releasing a series of demos.

One of the songs they perform is called ChiliDog, which discusses the prophecy of Armageddon. The title has nothing to do with the lyrical content, says Heppleston.

"The chorus goes, 'Someday the sky's going to fall.' It's going to happen," said Guthrie. "It won't be the earth's destruction, but a new beginning for mankind."

Their musical influences are mainly rock and blues, something the guys say is a result of their own influences.

"We're a modern rock band," said Heppleston. "Cam thinks we're folk-alternative."

Despite the negative image bestowed upon Christians by televangelists like Jerry Falwell and Jim Bakker, dumb as sheep are more than willing to disprove the mistakenly hypocritical image of Christianity.

"A real Christian will accept anyone no matter what, and we try to put that into practice," said Heppleston. "It's morality we believe in."

For booking information, you can contact dumb as sheep at 32 Walnut Dr., Guelph, (519) 822-1784.

Or you can e-mail the band at fguthrie@sympatico.ca.

Guelph psychic fair allows glimpses into the future

By Anita Santarossa

The world of Astrology is much larger and more complex than a mere horoscope reading.

The Psychic Fair held in Guelph at the College Inn, from Feb. 27 to March 1, had exhibits ranging from palm and tarot readings and aura imaging to light, sound and color healing, as well as other astrological services.

David Belne, lecturer and author on light and sound healing, performed demonstrations of his unique practice on his portable massage bed.

"I use special tuning forks and my hands on or around the body to work with the energy our bodies

are constantly giving off," said Belne.

This ancient healing practice goes back to the monasteries of Tibet where the lamas used bells around an ill person to restore their vibratory harmony, he said.

Belne admits he is not a doctor and will not attempt to diagnose. However, he will suggest a visit to a licensed physician if he feels that something is extremely out of balance.

"I have had experience where my hands have felt as if they were going to burn off," he said. "This was a sign to me that something was definitely out of balance."

Belne's main purpose is to help people achieve inner peace by



Psychic Richard Ravenhawke was one of 30 readers at the Guelph Psychic Fair Feb. 27.

(photo by Anita Santarossa)

uniting the individual with light and the sound of God.

Psychic Richard Ravenhawke, from the television show Psychic Dimensions, focuses his readings on spirituality.

As an Algonquin native, he uses North American native animal cards to guide his readings.

"I use the cards, but I also touch the hands to give me a greater sense of the person's aura," said Ravenhawke.

The unique thing about Ravenhawke is that he teaches what he practises. People may join classes to learn how to do their own readings, he said.

"Astrology is mathematical," he said, "and, like mathematics, we

can all learn it."

For those who are interested in an outer experience rather than a spiritual one, Desiree and Georgallen offered aura imaging.

A Kirlian camera photographs your energy field called the aura.

After your photo is taken and produced Desiree and Georgallen read the colors present in your energy field.

"This photo image method has been scientifically accurate since 1932 and is currently used to predict horse race winners, solve murder investigations and is used in hospitals," said Desiree.

From cards to crystals, there were many different methods available to see one's future.

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Resume service Conestoga's best kept secret

By Barbara Ateljevic

Conestoga's student employment office has been signing up students earlier this year for the resume referral service due to such a high demand from employers.

There is demand from employers to get resumes from up-and-coming graduates to fill job vacancies they may have in their organizations, said Mary Wright, manager of alumni, student employment and co-op education. Traditionally, the job market is still high in technology and business schools, but there is a fair bit of variety, she said.

The resume referral service allows grads to sign up free of charge and have their resume forwarded out to employers offering full-time positions related to their field of study. They will forward resumes free of charge, until December, she said. The office also posts part-time and summer jobs.

"We've seen a definite increase in the number of jobs posted

through our office," said Wright, who called the service the "best kept secret on campus" since so many students are unaware of it.

Two years ago, the student employment office posted 1,189 positions for the entire year, running from September to August. This year, in just five months, they posted 1,300.

"There's been a definite increase in the opportunities available," she said.

Wright said that annually, about 400 to 500 students signed on with the service. The alumni association asks that either students or employers notify them if a job has been filled. She said because not often done, they have no strong statistics about the placement rate through the office.

To register for the service, students are asked to give the office six to eight copies of their resumes and fill out an application form.

"It's up to students to connect with us every couple of weeks and make sure they have enough resumes on file," said Wright,



Wanna bite?

Gerry Cleaves and Jenn Hussey made banana splits on Feb. 26 during the bring your own bananas fundraiser during the Safe Break Awareness week. The project raised \$27.50 and proceeds went to BACCHUS.

(Photo by Casey Johnson)

To make an impression Resume writing not as easy as it looks

By Amanda Fickling

Resume writing is easy, right? Wrong. Making a good resume is harder than you may think, said a Conestoga College student employment officer. Students who are graduating or looking for a job, listen up because these personal fact sheets are a key to scoring an employment opportunity.

Many students think they can write resumes, said Laurie Doersam, student employment officer, during an interview.

"There are a lot of problems with the resumes," she said.

Doersam's job is to critique student and alumni resumes and to offer suggestions for improvement. It is not necessary to put an entire life history on two pages, said Doersam.

"A person's meaty technical skills are what the employer wants to know about," she said.

The first thing that should be on a resume is a skills summary or qualification section, said Doersam. The employer wants to know specific qualifications.

It is not as important to put down different clubs and activities you are involved in, she said.

"Communication skills will become apparent in an interview, once you have reached that stage," she explained.

Tip sheets on how to write better resumes and cover sheets are available for use at student employment, co-op education and alumni services, said Doersam. The critique service is free and is available to all students, including alumni.

Once an excellent resume has been created, it may be helpful to make use of the resume referral service that Conestoga College offers. The service is also located in student employment, co-op education and alumni services.

Right now there are about 250 resumes on the referral service, said Karen Parrinder, student employment assistant, during an interview.

"Why not use the service? It is another job search tool," she said.

The service gives student's

resumes to employers who send the College full-time job postings, said Parrinder.

She said employers send job postings from all over Canada. Job opportunities come from Ontario, out West, the United States, and even Japan, said Parrinder.

The service is free only to students who are in their last term of school, although students who have graduated can also use the service free-of-charge for up to six months after graduation. After that, a \$25 per year fee will be charged, Parrinder said.

The service is good because it does a lot of the work for the students, she said. Being on the resume service means you don't always have to check the job boards or job binders. If a company is interested they will contact the student directly, said Parrinder.

Employers are impressed with the good resumes that are coming out of the school, said student employment officer Laurie Doersam.

Get outside and feel good

By Becky Little

Do you want to go for a walk?

No not down to the corner for cigarettes, a real get-outside-feel good kind of walk.

There are some places to go not far from Kitchener-Waterloo.

In the city of Brantford, by the Brant Conservation Area, is Waterworks park. The trail begins at the end of a dead-end street.

There are three trails to follow along the Grand River and as a fellow walker said, "You can go for miles and miles". One of the trails is paved for those who prefer to bike or roller blade.

On the other side of Kitchener, St. Jacobs has a walking trail. Township Road 21 leads to a low

bridge. Before the bridge, there are places to park on either side of the road. On the South side of the road, a very short trail leads to waterfalls. On the North side of the road, there is a longer trail, leading to St. Jacobs. It doesn't go for miles and miles, but it takes you under railway tracks and past farmers' fields.

If you're up for a longer trip, there are some nice trails further away.

The Tiger Dunlop Trail in Goderich will keep walkers busy. The highlight of the trail is a really big bridge over the harbour. If the weather is right you can refresh yourself after the walk with a swim in Lake Huron.

Rattlesnake Point, on the Bruce

Trail, offers some great scenery. Since it is a part of the Bruce trail, you want to take care that you don't walk too far or those who are not seasoned hikers will never make it back to the car before dark.

Up near Hanover, there are a couple of walking trails out of the same park that will keep you busy for at least half an hour. The Hanover Park, on the south side of Hanover, is complete with deer, Canada geese, fish ponds and semi-exotic birds.

Conservation Areas are also a great place to go to get some exercise and have a little fun.

Some local conservation areas are Laurel Creek, Guelph Lake, and the Elora Gorge.

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First of its kind in Canada

New human resources course sparks interest

By Anita Santarossa

The new human resources post diploma course approved by the board of governors sparked interest in human resource students.

Sixteen students attended the first post diploma in human resources meeting on Feb. 26, in room 2A11-1.

Maureen Nummelin, post-graduate studies program co-ordinator at Conestoga College, presented the options the course has to offer.

"What is unique about this course," said Nummelin, who is also a human resource instructor, "is that it is the first of its kind in Canada."

The course is designed to meet the needs of students with full- and part-time jobs, she said.

"Students and employers need

flexibility and this course offers that to both parties," said Nummelin.

Nummelin also explained that the course is designed towards acquiring specific designations in the human resource field.

"Skills have a short shelf-life in the business community," said Nummelin. "The course will be supplemented by bringing in actual business people and experts from the community."

The course will allow students to move up on the corporate scale at a quick rate, she said.

The course is designed for those with a post-graduate diploma in business or a university degree. "People who are proven learners," said Nummelin.

Part of the cutting-edge delivery methods include a mix of self

study with an Internet component which caters mostly to those with Internet access at home or at work.

"The Internet component is designed to use people's time as effectively and efficiently as possible," said Nummelin.

"This course is that it is the first of its kind in Canada."

*Maureen Nummelin,
program co-ordinator*

The entire course consists of four clusters altogether, each with 20 hours of in-class learning and one eight-hour simulation day, held Saturdays.

Each simulation day is based on a theme where students work in groups to research and present in front of an expert panel.

"This gives students a chance to showcase their talents to people in the industry," said Nummelin.

There is also a co-op component, however, students working in a human resource based job (full or part time) may opt out of the co-op component.

The cost of the program is \$5,000 for Conestoga graduates and \$4,000 for Conestoga non-graduates.

Nummelin is looking into making the program OSAP eligible since it is currently a non-funded program.

For more information about the course contact the admissions office or Nummelin at ext.#300.

Spring activities

What to do in K-W

By Becky Little

What do you want to do today?

Here is a list of upcoming events at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium.

If you are the type of person who likes to watch animals, the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions will perform on Thursday March 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Perhaps you prefer arts and crafts and folk decor. If so you can catch the I love Country Decorating and Craft Show Saturday, April 11, and 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Access '98 will be at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium April 17, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and April 18, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. to show off all the new technology available for people with disabilities.

For the art lover in you, the Canadian Art and Collectibles Show will be on May 2, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and May 3, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Skate the Nation is coming to Kitchener Friday May 29, 7:30 p.m. Such skating stars as Kurt Browning and Josee Choinard will be performing.

For more information on what's going on in the Kitchener area, you can pick up the 1998 Leisure Guide at most pools and community centres around K-W.

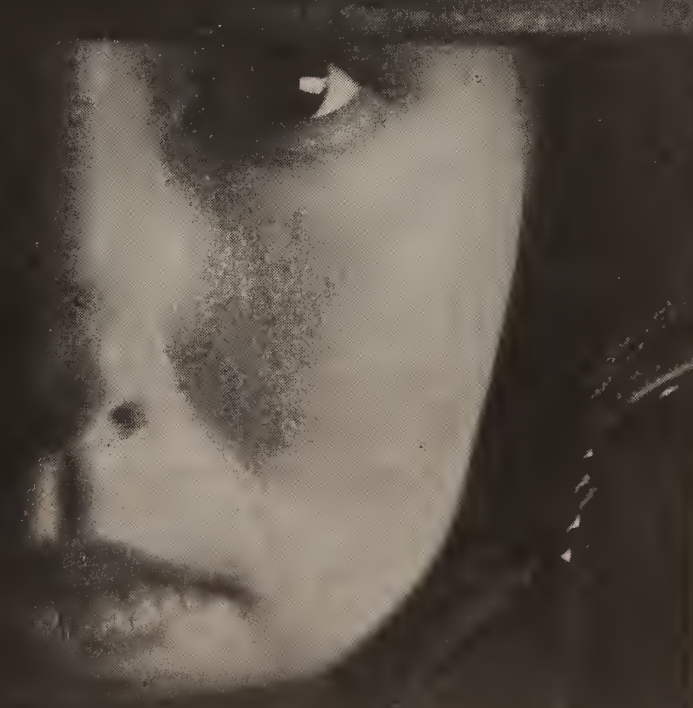
Kids can sign up for all sorts of sports and activities including camps to keep them busy for the summer months.

Activities are also available for those age 55 and up.

There are also pages full of activities for people with disabilities.

The 1998 Leisure Guide is put out by Kitchener Parks and Recreation.

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